

District Councillors Report

Local Plan

Submission of Main Modifications

Just a reminder, that the Main Modifications to the South Somerset Local Plan were submitted to the Secretary of State on 7 November 2014.

It is possible to view these documents at Brympton Way or Holyrood Lace Mill during the working day. They are also available on the Council web site

<http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/localplanexamination>

Taxi Policy

The District Council is responsible for licensing of Hackney carriages and/or private hire vehicles, their drivers and operators and SSDC have recently produced a new Taxi Licensing Policy that was agreed at Full Council. Some drivers and operators have expressed concern on a number of issues but at the forefront were the now recognised equalities need for taxis to be disabled and wheelchair accessible and the need for drivers to take a knowledge test. With the latter it was felt important that drivers new to South Somerset had at least a basic knowledge of the towns in which they proposed to operate – such where the railway station/bus stations or major buildings are located

Waste Partnership

The Somerset Waste Partnership have for some months been running trials on the collection of new materials for recycling. These have been taking place in the Taunton Deane area. Although the response from the public has been fairly positive further trials will take place next summer.

The need for additional commercial waste sites is also being addressed and more information on those should be available sometime in December.

Troughs along Strawberry Bank

Some of you will have noticed that the Strawberry Bank troughs have been taken down. They should be back on site sometime over the next couple of weeks complete with the winter planting. They will disappear late spring to be planted up for the summer.

Victorian Evening

I have spoken to the appropriate officer at the District Council regarding the toilets being left open until eleven in the evening. The District Council has negotiated a deal with the toilet contractor that allows for late opening on night during the year. Payment will be required for any extra nights.

The Whitelackington War Memorial has now been listed at Grade II.

It lies to the north of the church of St Mary the Virgin and was dedicated in the 1920s and has on it second world war additions. It has been listed for the following reasons:

- Historic interest: as an eloquent witness to the tragic impact of world events on the community and the sacrifices made in the 20th century
- Design: a simple, yet accomplished, war memorial which takes the form of an obelisk
- Group value: it has a strong group value with the Grade II* listed church of St Mary the Virgin.